

## **LED**

-Working with the Small Business Administration (SBA), LED has set up an expedited application process for disaster loans to aid businesses, homeowners and others in the affected areas by Hurricane Katrina. SBA staff members are now working out of LED's Baton Rouge office and we are communicating with our partners in the private sector to ensure everyone who qualifies for a loan has the ability to apply.

-LED is helping to bring businesses back on-line by taking inventory of space that may be available for them to relocate in unaffected areas of the state. Also, LED is asking global business allies to assist with telecommunications tools, computers and IT equipment as well as office supplies.

-LED is sharing the message to global businesses on the state's behalf that although an important area of Louisiana will experience a cessation of business, most of the state is open for business and the whole of Louisiana is planning for the future.

## **DEPT. OF EDUCATION**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCES SHORT-TERM PLAN IN WAKE OF HURRICANE KATRINA**

Baton Rouge, LA—The Louisiana Department of Education is putting into place a short-term plan to meet the most pressing needs of schools in our state in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

That plan includes getting displaced students enrolled into schools. Today Superintendent Cecil Picard has learned that parishes around the state, and systems outside Louisiana, are taking in refugee students. He said, "I am pleased to learn that these systems are taking care of our children, giving them a safe place to learn and putting some stability back into their lives. I hope these enrollments continue."

The department will make basic student information available to each school district so that they can begin to track student transfers for funding purposes.

Superintendent Picard also wants to make sure that every displaced teacher, bus driver, cafeteria worker, counselor and custodian has a job. He reiterated

his hope that they will apply to work for the school districts who will be taking in many of the students displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

The Department of Education will assist entire school districts devastated by the storm. "I am very pleased to report that I have now heard from school leaders in all six of the parishes most affected by the hurricane," Superintendent Picard said. "They are all safe, and we have invited them, and their financial managers, to set up temporary offices in our building so that they can get back to work."

Additionally, Alvarez and Marsal, the company that has been assisting with finances in Orleans Parish, is also currently working inside the Department of Education. They are working aggressively to get the payroll back online and assure Orleans Parish school employees that they will continue to receive health insurance benefits, including those who recently received layoff notices.

Bill Roberti, Managing Director of Alvarez and Marsal said, "We are doing everything possible to assess the situation and develop a plan for getting the school system back on its feet. At the moment, our first thoughts are for the well-being of the people of New Orleans and the safety of this great city." Roberti announced that employees can call a toll free number for updated information on payroll and benefits. That number is 1-877-771-5800.

The Department of Education is also establishing direct points of contact for every superintendent in the state so that one person within the agency can take their calls, answer their questions and meet their needs quickly. Superintendent Picard said, "We will be problem-solvers, and our number one priority will be to help every school system in the state deal with the consequences of this unprecedented natural disaster. We have canceled all Department of Education meetings so that our staff can fully concentrate on the education of our children in this uncertain time."

The department has received offers of assistance and support from across the country. Those offers range from school supplies to monetary donations. Superintendent Picard said, "We will be coordinating these offers in the days to come, but I want to personally thank those who want to put the children of Louisiana first. Their kindness is deeply appreciated and desperately needed."

The Department of Education Call Center is fielding so many phone calls that it has expanded its hours, and its staff, to make sure every question is answered and every offer of help is recorded. The toll-free number, 1-877-453-2721, is now in operation from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Daily updates will also be available on the Department of Education website at [www.louisianaschools.net](http://www.louisianaschools.net).

## **DSS**

### **DSS Announces Emergency Assistance for Hurricane Victims**

Baton Rouge – The Louisiana Department of Social Services, along with federal and community partners, is announcing several initiatives to assist Hurricane Katrina victims, according to Secretary Ann S. Williamson.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with all those impacted by this storm. We are responding to their needs as efficiently and timely as possible,” Williamson said. “I want to assure everyone that, as we work in partnership with the federal government, we will immediately communicate updated information as it becomes available.”

Citizens who are receiving public assistance automatically received funds on their Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards on Thursday. These cards may be used by Louisiana citizens who are outside their parish of residence and even outside the state.

The Disaster Food Stamp Program (DFSP) will be offered Friday, Sept. 2 – Sept. 9, 2005. Applications for the program will be accepted in all DSS Office of Family Assistance parish and district offices. Some of the offices will be opened in areas near the most severely impacted parishes, and 49 offices 24 hours per day during this 7-day period.

Verification of identity and residency, if possible, will be required in order to be eligible for DFSP benefits. Other eligibility factors include income, liquid resources, expenses, Social Security numbers and household composition.

Eligible parishes and detailed information will be provided the DSS website: [www.dss.state.la.us](http://www.dss.state.la.us). Current Food Stamp recipients do not need to go into the offices for this purpose, as their benefits will be automatically added onto their existing EBT card. These recipients will receive an additional disaster allotment, pending approval by USDA Food and Nutrition Services.

Williamson also announced that a toll-free number has been established for foster and adoptive parents to call to check in with the

Department of Social Services. To report the status of a foster or adoptive child, call (800) 259-3428.

To assist citizens in need of shelter information or who wish to volunteer, Williamson said the 211 information system has partnered with the state. 211 is a joint effort of the United Ways of Louisiana and the Louisiana Alliance of Information and Referral Services (LAAIRS).

211 is optional statewide from the land lines. The calls from New Orleans are being diverted to Monroe. Cell phone users should call (800) 749-COPE (2673).

#### **EMERGENCY FOOD STAMP BENEFITS**

- Beginning this morning, emergency benefits will be issued to those who were impacted by the hurricane. Forty –two parish offices will be open 24 hours per day, for seven days, to accommodate citizens.
- We ask citizens to be patient as lines will be long and the process will be slow. Bring drinking water, snacks and sun screen. Bring proof of identification from the parish where you were displaced.
- Be prepared to complete a two-page application. Once the application is completed, citizens will receive a food stamp card and will be able to purchase food with this including prepared meals. Those who are currently receiving benefits will get their monthly allotment and on the 15<sup>th</sup> will receive a full disaster allotment for the their family size, which will automatically be added. There is no need for them to come to offices.

Shelter numbers:

62,000 evacuees in \_\_\_\_\_ shelters

#### **DEPT. OF EDUCATION**

- At the Department of Education we are today focusing on the short term goal of meeting our schools most pressing needs
- I am pleased to report that I have spoken to school leaders in the 6 most effected parishes after my plea to them yesterday, so that we can begin to assess their individual situations

- Additionally, we are announcing today that all Department of Education meetings have been cancelled through the month of September so that our staff and the staffs in our local schools can concentrate their efforts on our short term goals.
- Our short term goals that I shared with you yesterday include:
- Enrolling displaced students into schools where they are taking shelter.
- Those enrollments are happening and we are encouraging districts to continue those efforts
- We will be getting basic student information to the local school districts that are operational so that they can begin to track student transfers for funding purposes
- We not only want every child to be in a place where they are safe and can learn, we also want every displaced teacher to have a job.
- Remember, it's not just teachers who have been displaced from our schools.
- Support staff such as bus drivers, cafeteria workers, counselors and custodial staff will all be in need of jobs and we are encouraging them to contact districts where displaced students will be enrolling.
- We are also making plans to assist entire school districts that have been displaced by making office space available at the Department of Education so that local superintendents and financial managers can re-establish some basic operations.
- In addition, Alvarez and Marsal, the company that has been assisting with finances in Orleans Parish is also currently operating out of our offices.
- They report that Orleans parish school employees will continue to receive health insurance benefits, including those employees who recently received lay off notices

- In addition, they are asking Orleans Parish school employees to call a toll free number to get updated information on payroll and benefits.
- That number is 1-877-771-5800.
- That phone number and information is also posted on the Department of Education's website, [www.louisianschools.net](http://www.louisianschools.net)
- The Department of Education is also establishing direct points of contact within the Department for every parish superintendent so that ONE PERSON within our agency can take their calls, answer their questions and meet their needs quickly.
- Some good news and I know we all need to hear some today....
- We are receiving hundreds of calls from across the country offering assistance and support....from school supplies to monetary donations.
- We will be coordinating those offers of assistance in the days to come, but I want to personally thank those who want to put the children of Louisiana first.
- Their offers of kindness are deeply appreciated and desperately needed.

### **LT. GOV OFFICE AND CRT**

Office of Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu

Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (includes Office of Tourism, Office of Cultural Development, Office of State Parks, Office of State Library and Office of State Museums)

September 2, 2005

Baton Rouge -- The Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism continue to assist in the state's efforts of rescue and recovery resulting from Hurricane Katrina.

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor is housing employees of the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau (NOMCVB), including its President and CEO, until operations can return to New Orleans. The NOMCVB will work closely with the Lt. Governor, Angèle Davis, Secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and Darienne Wilson, head of the Office of Tourism to continue providing leadership to the tourism industry.

The Office of State Parks announced a fee waiver for evacuees who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina to stay at park sites around the state. This fee waiver will remain in effect through the entire month of September. All reservations for cabins, lodges, group camps and campsites for the month of September have been cancelled, in order to accommodate evacuees. Refunds will be issued for the cancelled reservations and complimentary stays will be issued, once the immediate crisis has passed.

The Office of State Library, collaborating with parish public libraries, is providing free Internet access and reading materials to evacuees housed in public shelters. Contact your local public library for branch location and hours.

## **DHH**

### **KEY DHH MESSAGES**

- The Department of Health and Hospitals is focusing efforts on developing networks of medical providers (including hospitals, nursing homes specialty care providers and shelters) who can care for those who have been evacuated from New Orleans. These networks include providers for hemophilia and dialysis patients. These networks allow the temporary medical staging areas (triage centers) in Baton Rouge (LSU campus) and Thibodaux (Nichols campus) to discharge shelter evacuees to proper facilities.
- DHH worked through the night to assist the LSU Hospital System with the evacuation of patients from both LSU hospitals in New Orleans. The evacuation mission should commence this morning.
- The Medicaid program is streamlining its enrollment process to allow providers in other states to enroll as quickly as possible. This is to ensure

that evacuated Medicaid patients can receive the care they need in other states.

- DHH has established a telephone number for doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who can assist in Baton Rouge. The number is 225-763-5740. In Southwest Louisiana, the telephone number is 337-475-5398.

### **DEQ**

The Department of Environmental Quality has not confirmed that an explosion last night in the New Orleans area is related to a railcar. This occurred in an area that the department has not been able to fly over. However, the Environmental Protection Agency and DEQ currently has a special plane in the air on the way to the area. this plane, called ASPECT, is a capable of taking air samples and aerial photos.

The infrared camera capable of detecting air releases not seen by the naked eye will be in the air today as well. This is known as HAWK technology.

A flyover of the Venice area revealed a major oil leak. From the air, two tanks with the capacity of holding two million barrels appear to leaking. Currently, this area is not accessible.

### **LDWF**

\*Search and rescue continues with major missions of Sept 1 and saves yesterday including evacuation of ambulatory patients from Tulane Medical Center, babies and children from University Medical Center and patients of all ages still ongoing still being evacuated from Charity Hospital.

\*750+ personnel including LDWF staff now involved in our S and R.

\*Assistance includes W+F staff from Texas with Tennessee and Arkansas

\*Elements still a problem, personnel taxed, relief effort in progress.

### **DEPT. OF LABOR**

The Department of Labor and our local Workforce Investment Area partners will be going to several evacuation shelters on Friday to begin taking Unemployment and Disaster Assistance claims from displaced residents.



We will be going to the Houma Civic Center, Lamar-Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales, the Baton Rouge River Center, the Cajun Dome in Lafayette; the Rayne Civic Center; Hirsh Coliseum (Saturday) and LSU in Shreveport; Paragon Casino in Marksville; and the Monroe Civic Center.

The Texas Workforce Commission is assisting the labor department in handling disaster relief. Several hundred TWC workers will be available at the Astrodome this weekend to help evacuees file for UI benefits. TWC has begun installing 1,000 telephone lines in the Astrodome so evacuees can apply for UI claims over the phone.

**Important to note:**

- We estimate that between 500,000 and 600,000 employees may be filing for unemployment claims.
- At least 36,000 employers, a conservative estimate, could be affected by Katrina.
- We also estimate that some \$5.6 billion in wages could be lost over a three-month period.

(The findings are based on Labor Department information involving: Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, and St. James. St. John the Baptist and St. Tammany Parishes.)

- The Labor Department will continue to process Unemployment Claims and Disaster Assistant claims over the weekend and Labor Day.
- We continue to ask citizens to be patient as we process an unprecedented number of claims.

**DOC**

Department of Corrections completed the evacuation process of OPP inmates at approximately 8:00 p.m. last night. As of 5:00 a.m. this morning (Friday, September 2), we had approximately 2100 at our staging

area at Elayn Hunt Correctional Center waiting for transport to assigned locations. That number will significantly decrease as the day goes on. Department of Corrections and the Attorney General's Office is setting up a temporary holding and processing facility near the AMTRAK train station in New Orleans for looters and other people accused of committing crimes will be taken. Construction of that temporary facility has begun and we are measuring completion in hours rather than days. DOC will provide approximately 20 employees for security and operations at that site once complete.

Approximately 20 Probation and Parole officers are providing security for the NOFD at the staging area where DOC evacuated OPP inmates.

Search, rescue and temporary shelter of OPP employees is being conducted

by the Louisiana Sheriffs Association with support as needed from the Department of Corrections. Some officers and employees were evacuated to Hunt over the last three days as well, where they have been provided food, shelter and phone privileges.

Washington Correctional Institute in Angie, Louisiana, which was affected by the storm, is still without electricity but operating on emergency power. There is no phone service in or out of the facility, however HQ is able to maintain contact with staff via a computer phone line. The facility is attempting to resume inmate visitation with family by tomorrow. Details on that to follow.

The Kentucky Department of Corrections is sending personnel, equipment and supplies to Louisiana today. Other correctional systems have offered assistance as well and DOC Headquarters will be collecting those supplies and sending them first, out to shelters in need, and secondly to state facilities who have assumed responsibility for the thousands of inmates from Jefferson and Orleans parishes. The first donations to come into Headquarters were by inmates themselves (State Police Barracks). They donated two boxes of personal hygiene items.

## **DOTD**

### **1. Breach**

DOTD Secretary Johnny Bradberry and Gen. Don Riley of the Corps of Engineers to assess conditions and progress at the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal breach. Boh Brothers, which is installing the sheet pilings, should be done by this evening.

The East Jefferson levee district has completed construction of an access road on the levee from Old Hammond Highway South. They are now placing sandbags.

Additionally, the Orleans levee district is working to seal off the London canal at Lake Ponchartrain (using debris)

(sheet pilings 24 inches wide by 50 feet long)

2. Ferry transport

Two ferries now in operation in Chalmette have started moving 2,500 people from Chalmette in St. Bernard Parish to Algiers Point, where they will await buses to complete their evacuation. Food and water is expected to be provided.

DOTD is working with the Coast Guard and the Governor's Office on this.

(This is a continuation of efforts yesterday; moved from levee to Chalmette on the river side.)

We also have three more ferries en route to join the evacuation effort. ETA was in 10 hours.

3. Ferry closures

Because of the rescue effort, ferry service has been canceled until further notice in New Roads/St. Francisville; Plaquemine; White Castle; and Reserve. All these ferries are being redeployed into the New Orleans area.

(The only DOTD ferry that's unaffected is the one in Cameron. It is 150 miles away and used as a major truck route. Three other crossings with tugs and barges are still operational: Melville, Duty, and Monkey Island.)

Each ferry can take up to 500 people.

**OFFICE OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

**Baton Rouge, Louisiana, September 1, 2005** – John Ducrest, Commissioner of the Louisiana Office

of Financial Institutions, on Thursday, September 1, 2005, issued guidance to state chartered financial institutions concerning the closure and relocation of branch facilities in the parishes affected by Hurricane Katrina. Having determined that a state of emergency exists in St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemine, St. Bernard, Assumption, LaFourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary, and Terrebonne due to continuing lack of communication, utility, and transportation services, flooding, property damage, and dislocation of large segments of the population, Commissioner Ducrest issued guidance for the closure of existing branches and the opening of relocated or new branches of financial institutions, under which standard requirements for closing or opening a branch of a financial institution are either waived or allowed under streamlined procedures. The guidance applies to all state chartered banks, savings and loans, credit unions, and savings banks and will remain in effect for a period of 30 days, unless extended by the Commissioner. For more information visit the OFI website at [www.ofi.state.la.us](http://www.ofi.state.la.us).

### **DEQ**

DEQ and the Environmental Protection Agency flew through a plume of a fire on Charters St. in New Orleans. The air-sampling results from the plane, known as ASPCT, showed no significant findings. The chemicals found, ethylene, methane (Freon 22) methanol, were almost nondetectable. They were found directly in the plume. Plume contained a lot of soot. We would have called for a shelter in place based on the amount of soot, but based on the situation, this was not asked for.

### **DEPT. OF REVENUE**

Hurricane Katrina victims and others, whose use of hotel rooms extends for periods longer than two continuous months, are entitled to exemption from state sales tax on their room occupancy charges. Where there is no occupancy contract between the parties, the tax exemption applies from the beginning of the third month of occupancy. However, if a binding and enforceable contract is entered into at the beginning of the occupancy, under which the guest is obligated to occupy a room for a minimum of two months, the exemption will also apply to the first two months of the occupancy. Revenue Ruling No. 03-007, providing details on this subject, can be viewed from the department's web site at <http://www.revenue.louisiana.gov/forms/lawspolicies/RR03007.pdf>.

Any questions should be forwarded to webmaster@rev.state.la.us  
<<mailto:webmaster@rev.state.la.us>>.